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CIA Cancels Recruiting Visit to U-M

Booth News Service

ANN ARBOR — The Central Intelligence Agency canceled its recruiting visit next week to the University of Michigan, but insists it was not because of student protests.

The spy agency, which was scheduled to interview student job applicants Tuesday and Wednesday, met with a noisy protest when it recruited here in October. Police arrested 26 protesters, four of whom face trial today on disorderly conduct charges.

Others charged with trespassing and hindering police officers are scheduled for trial in February.

"The cancellation (of the CIA's Jan. 28-29 visit) has nothing to do with demonstrations or anything else," said Patti Volz, public relations officer for the CIA. The date was highly tentative, anyway. If the agency doesn't reschedule for later this semester, it will certainly recruit at the U-M next year."

The CIA said it canceled its visit because it had already received numerous applications from U-M students.

"The (CIA) recruiter said he didn't need to come back again this semester," reported Deborah May, director of the U-M's Career Planning and Placement Office. Protesters vow they will continue to demonstrate against the CIA as long as the agency recruits on campus.

Protesters charge the CIA is guilty of violence and political sabotage around the world, including overthrowing governments in Chile and Guatemala. The protesters also claim the CIA is arming and training a right-wing force to overthrow Nicaragua's government.

"The fact that the CIA canceled is an important victory for us," said Mark Weisbrot, one of the 26 protesters arrested during the agency's October visit.

"They might not admit it, but they've canceled because of the protests here during the past two years. Besides that, they don't want to come to Ann Arbor during the middle of our trial. They're very aware of their public image."